

## HB 312 -- SCHOOL DISTRICT ACCREDITATION

SPONSOR: McNeil

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 10 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Education by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and implement a grant program to extend instructional time in underperforming districts for the purpose of improving academic achievement including, but not limited to, early childhood education. The department must develop guidelines for grant applications and establish priorities for grant distribution. The amounts awarded in grant moneys must be proportional to the amount the additional instruction time exceeds the required minimum hours of attendance and average daily attendance rate of the affected students. Unaccredited districts and provisionally accredited districts must receive priority for grants awarded under these provisions.

The Extended Instructional Time Fund is created consisting of all moneys that may be appropriated to it by the General Assembly and may include any gifts, contributions, grants, or bequests received from federal, state, private, or other sources. Upon appropriation, moneys in the fund are to be used solely for the implementation of the extended instructional time program.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill will improve students' educational instruction and provide more opportunities for learning.

Testifying for the bill were Representative McNeil; Missouri National Education Association; Missouri State Teachers Association; and AFT St.Louis Local 420.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.